

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Chris Brody on 4/2/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

Amendments to the claims:

Claim 1, line 4-5: After 'of the container (4) with'

Delete: "an incident light beam"

Insert: --a uniform ring of light--

Claim 1, line 11: After 'obtaining'

Delete: a

Insert: --the--

Claim 1, line 12: After 'and 20'

Delete: "that converge"

Insert: --, the uniform ring of light converging--

Claim 5, line 2: After 'polarizing'

Delete: "the incident light beam"

Insert: --the uniform ring of light--

Claim 6, line 5: After 'and 20)

Delete: "that converge"

Insert: --, the uniform ring of light converging--

Claim 6, line 10: After 'means (22) for'

Delete: "creating a convergent uniform ring of light (C) having"

Insert: --converging the uniform ring of light (C) to have--

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- With respect to claims 1 and 6, the prior art taken alone or in combination fails to disclose or render obvious "a uniform ring of light delimited between two light cones" in combination with the rest of the limitations.
- With respect to claims 3-5 and 7-16, their allowance depends upon their dependence on independent claims 1 and 6 as noted above.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see pages 8-13, filed 01/02/08, with respect to the prior art rejections of claims 1-16 and rejections over U.S.C. 112 have been fully considered and in conjunction with the amendments are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-16 has been withdrawn.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to REBECCA C. SLOMSKI whose telephone number is (571)272-9787. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 7:30 am - 5:00 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory J. Toatley, Jr. can be reached on 571-272-2059. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/L. G. Lauchman/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2877

Rebecca Slomski
Patent Examiner

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